

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 AEC-05 OES-03 FEA-01 SAM-01

/090 W

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R 061742Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6339

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15980

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EG, UK

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SOUNDS OFF AGAIN--ON

NUCLEAR ARMAMENT

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SHAZLY (WHO ALMOST GOT SACKED ONCE FOR AN UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENT OF POLICY) HAS DONE SOMETHING LIKE IT AGAIN. IN BRITISH TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT KEE FOLLOWING ISRAELI PRESIDENT KATZER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF ISRAEL'S POTENTIAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, SHAZLY ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE DRAWN INTO STATEMENT THAT HE IS "SURE" EGYPT WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP ITS
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NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY UNLESS SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND

TO VERIFY THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY. SHAZLY WAS THEN LED ON TO PREDICT THE IN-EVITABILITY OF WAR, EVEN THOUGH EGYPT DOES NOT WANT ONE, SHOULD ISRAEL FAIL TO COME UP WITH THE (UNSPECIFIED) "MINIMUM" WHICH EGYPT CAN ACCEPT. THESE REMARKS APPARENTLY GOT CONSIDERABLE PLAY ON WORLD MEDIA (DECEMBER 3 USIA WIRELESS FILE AND TEHRAN 10334) EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT MAKE MUCH OF A SPLASH ON LOCAL SCENE (WHERE SHAZLY'S REPUTATION IS BETTER KNOWN).

2. WE HAVE TRANSCRIPTS OF THIS INTERVIEW BOTH FROM THE MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY VIA THE FCO, AND FROM THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY. WE SHALL POUCH COPIES TO THE DEPARTMENT (NEA/EGY) AND CAIRO. HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANT THING IS WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY THAT SHAZLY WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY. WHILE, UNDER TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES, HE MAY NOT BE IN AS MUCH HOT WATER AS HE WAS LAST TIME HE SPOKE OUT OF TURN (BEIRUT 10071 AND LONDON 11326, SEPTEMBER 1974), WE THINK EMBASSY CAIRO WILL AGREE THAT HIS STATEMENTS DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN POLICY.

SPIERS

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